

At Japan's Vassar

Social Ethics Important
to Daughters of the Empire Who are to
Protect its Manners



BEAUTIFUL,
dainty and de-
mure little Osuki
San—Osuki San,
with the lightly
fluttering fan;
sweet little San,
with the almond
eyes, eyes as blue
as the summer
skies—alas, Osu-
ki, if she would be
up to date, must
go to school.

Little Wistaria
Blossom, meek,
delicate Hyacinth
and lovely,
rosy Sea Anem-
one—all of them must take up books of
the higher study.

Hours spent in dreaming of that brave
husband who should in the future be "as
dear to her as heaven itself" will be de-
voted to study of English literature. And
that spirit of native gaiety, bubbling forth
like bottled sunshine, will be moulded and
trained and cultivated by teachers, Ameri-
can, English and Japanese.

An age of "higher study" for women
has dawned in Japan. A "Vassar College"
has risen in Tokio. And the sensitive little
flowerlets that gazed at the world timidly
from behind bamboo curtains are now set
to the study of household economy, cook-
ing, literature and social etiquette.

It is a hopeful sign, meaning more to
Japan than a victory over Russia. It means
a new age for women, of freedom for the
little slave wives, of a wider education for
the budding almond blossoms and a greater
scope for woman's work and endeavor in
that country.

And Japan hails the new education
with delight. There are 1000 students at
present in the Woman's University. Thou-
sands of girls are studying in the normal
schools to fit themselves for admittance.
And at the head of the institution are the
foremost men of the nation.

IN THE "Greater Learning of Women" of
Japan we read the traditional idea—mark
it, ye emancipated goddesses of the Stars
and Stripes—the following:

A woman should look upon her husband as if he
were heaven itself, and thus escape Celestial pun-
ishment. The five worst maladies that afflict the
female mind are indolence, discontent, slander, jeal-
ousy and silliness. Without any doubt, these five
maladies afflict seven or eight out of every ten
women, and from them rises the inferiority of
women to men.

Suppose one of the fair "sophs" at Vas-
sar were told she should train herself to look
upon her husband, when she gets one, as if he
were heaven itself—suppose! Take care of
that golf stick! Watch out! She might throw a
baseball, football or tennis ball—anything she'd
get her hand on—at you. And she'd be justified
in doing so if you told her this was her only
way of escaping eternal punishment.

Granting that the Japanese are an observ-
ant and, many writers say, imitative people, it
is probable that they took notes at Vassar. They
were probably impressed there by the way the
fair ones talked, the way they went on botan-
ical jaunts and studied various "ologies."

Anyway, the Japs decided to open a uni-
versity for women, which they did in 1900. This
institution has been gradually growing in favor,
and now the Japs are planning a more ambi-
tious future for it.

At the beginning 300 regular students were
enrolled, while 500 more took courses in the
high schools connected with the university pre-
paratory to entering it.

The express object was formulated as fol-
lows:

To so further the general culture of students,
that, on the basis of the best modern education,
they can perform their duties as women, wives and
mothers.

During the first year there were 700 sub-
scribers, among them the foremost men of the
empire. Marquis Ito took a personal interest
in the new institution. Count Okuma, Marquis
Bayonji, Minister of Education Kubota, Prince
Konoze and Baron Shibusawa, the great finan-
cier, were active in its establishment.

Their united efforts resulted in the magnif-
icent buildings, which now stand on beautiful
grounds just outside of Tokio, the first insti-
tution of its kind in the land of the Rising Sun.

Formerly the lady of the tiny toes stayed
mostly indoors. Her life was inactive, quiet
and simple. She sipped her tea, pecked the
dainties brought in from native restaurateurs
as let her fingers wander idly over rare shim-



Esthetic Gymnastics with Flag Movements

No girl under the age of 17 is admitted to
the institution. Each student is required to
furnish a certificate from a well-known citizen
of Tokio, who makes himself responsible for
her good behavior.

Any student who cannot keep up with her
class, or whose indiscretions become a cause for
scandal, is summarily expelled.

Perhaps the curriculum will surprise you.
There are three courses, covering three years—
household economy, English literature and Jap-
anese literature. Japanese literature is sec-
ondary to a study of the English, however. An-
other course has been arranged recently, which
includes pedagogics, music, art and philosophy.

From the time she enters, a Japanese girl
prepares to become "a good woman, wife and
mother." Devotion to the home and fidelity to
the husband are woman's cardinal virtues.

So in her process of a modernization it is
natural that Japan should wish to teach the
women how to keep house.

This includes not only cooking and house-
wife skill. The student studies etiquette, so-
cial usages, practical and theoretical morals,
psychology, physiology, applied physics, chem-
istry, natural science, art, history, civic knowl-
edge, story telling and the hygiene of children.

Part of her course consists in learning how
to entertain callers and play the part of hostess
gracefully and correctly. To do this she is
given practical lessons in entertaining in
rooms set apart for the purpose.

Then the housekeeper-in-the-making takes
up Japanese, Chinese and English history, phil-
osophy, drawing and painting.

HEROISM INVOKED

Special attention is paid to reading, for
the good Japanese mother must be able to tell
her sons stories of heroes, intrepid fighters and
of the fearless gods. It is she who evokes the
dauntless spirit so valiantly displayed at Port
Arthur. To her daughters she must tell fairy
tales of noble wives and unselfish mothers.

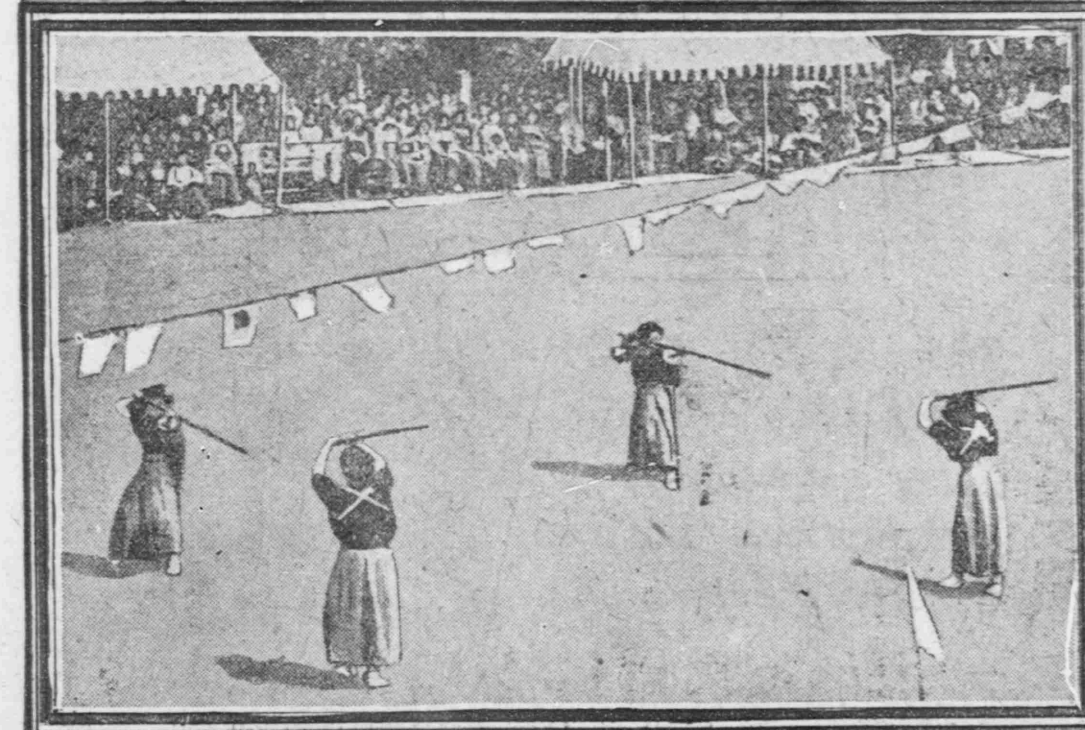
And more! The time that the student at
Vassar spends in trying to remember Latin
names and classifying botanical specimens is
devoted in the Japanese college to practical
garden work. Young Miss Flower Blossom will
learn the symbolism of flowers, how a plant
them in order and convey mystical meanings.

The girls are taught that they are to do a
great deal in the way of preserving and trans-
mitting the manners and traditions of the coun-
try. Consequently, much about the college life
and environment is symbolic.

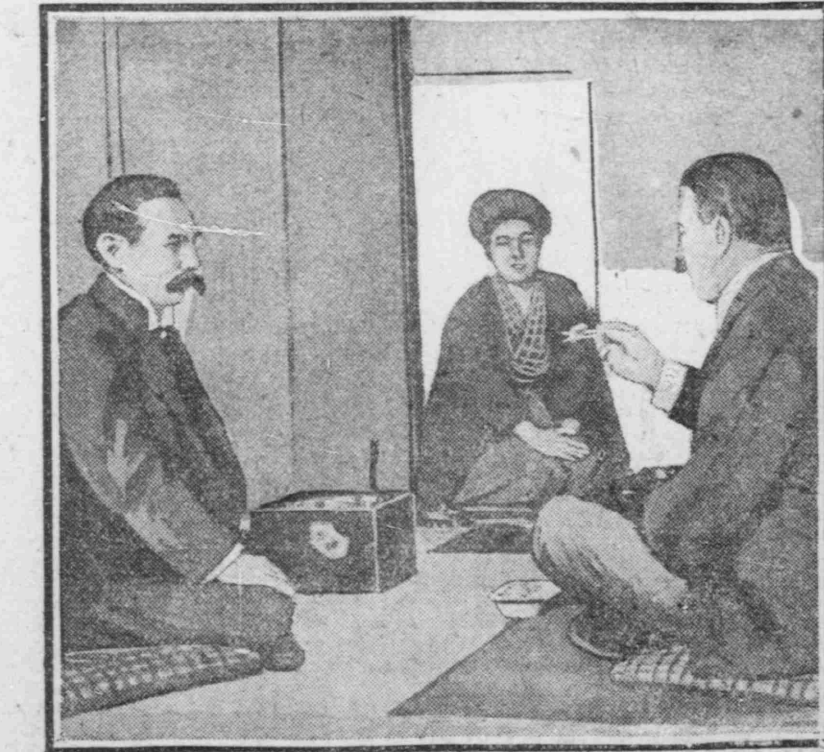
Even the entrances to the buildings are em-
blematic—the broad doorways typifying the
wider life open to the woman of education,
while the blossoming cherry trees lining the
paths represent the Japanese spirit.

The university is a combination of college
and girls' boarding school. Board is less than
\$4 a month; the tuition charge is \$1.50.

Many English and American professors
and women teachers are on the faculty of the
university. Within a short time elementary
schools and a kindergarten connected with the
institution will be opened.



Combat with Lances



The Garden of the Horticultural School